

Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program Signing Event  
Governor's Conference Room, 115 East  
11:00 – 11:45 A.M.; Thursday, March 25, 1999  
Speech by DNR Secretary George Meyer

- Thank you Lieutenant Governor, for your warm introduction.
- Wisconsin's Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program puts us on the cutting edge of environmental policy both nationally and internationally. The federal government's willingness to enable states and businesses to enter into regulatory agreements will produce new environmental excellence. DNR will enter into agreements with Wisconsin businesses that are willing to go beyond their environmental requirements to demonstrate environmental excellence.
- In addition, businesses have the security of knowing that the federal agency will work in an open and collaborative partnership as DNR develops and implements WDNR – Business agreements. We expect this program to uphold environmental standards, while it rids both agency and business of unnecessary paperwork. The program will allow for new opportunities to protect the environment in ways that the existing regulatory system does not currently allow.
- This is the *first* day of the *new* way to protect Wisconsin's environment. From the lessons we learn, we will show the nation and teach the world our better, cooperative way.
- I am proud of this agreement, and I am excited to set the example for other states. My thanks and appreciation go to all of those who helped bring this monumental agreement about. I would especially like to thank Lynda Wiese of my staff for her persistence in making this agreement a reality.
- Please allow me to introduce a long time friend and college classmate, Mr. Dave Ullrich. Dave is the acting Administrator of Region V, of the Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago.